

YOUTH PROTECTION

As an Explorer leader, you need to have basic knowledge about the potential for abuse of adolescents and the Youth Protection policies of Learning for Life that are designed to prevent it. Because of the coeducational nature of Exploring, youth protection takes on added dimensions.

It is important to realize that, although child abuse is sometimes thought to be a problem only for young children, it's not unusual for adolescents to be victims of abuse, whether emotional, physical, or sexual. Therefore, Exploring leaders are obliged to be familiar with the Youth Protection emphasis of Learning for Life.

"Youth Protection Guidelines" in the Advisor section of the *Explorer Leader Handbook* lists several considerations that the Explorer leader must remember.

- There must be two-deep leadership on all trips and on all activities, which means that there must be at least two adults at every post event and activity.
- There must be no one-on-one contact with Explorers. Other Explorers or Advisors must be present (exception is certified law enforcement ride-along).
- Respect the privacy of your Explorers.
- Provide separate accommodations for Advisors and Explorers and for males and females on overnight trips.
- Ensure proper preparation for activities, especially those with safety risks.
- Secret organizations are not permitted.
- Appropriate standards for attire should be upheld.
- Proper training, supervision, and monitoring of officers are necessary.